

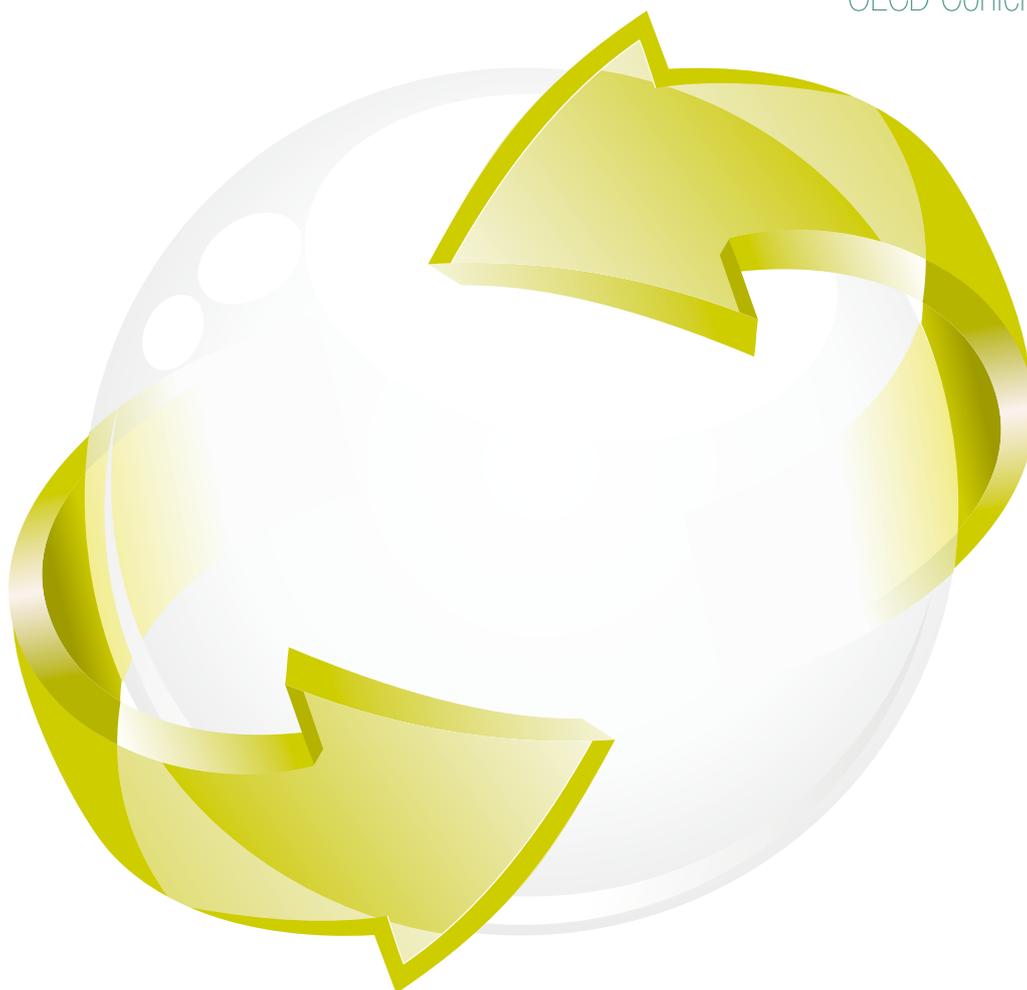


OECD WORKSHOP ON
GREENING REGIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS:

Opportunities and Insights From International Experience

AGENDA

10 June 2016,
OECD Conference Centre



Background

1. International trade and environmental protection are both fundamental elements for sustainable economic growth at a global scale. In parallel to multilateral efforts negotiated through the World Trade Organization (WTO), regional trade agreements (RTAs) have emerged significantly over the past decade reaching up to 625 agreements worldwide as of February 2016. These RTAs increasingly include environmental provisions that encourage membership countries and economies to strengthen their environmental policies, and provide significant opportunities to further ensure the mutual supportiveness of trade and environmental policies.

2. Since 2007, the OECD, under its Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE), has been investigating trends in environmental provisions in RTAs and their impacts on the environment. Under its work programme on trade and environment, the JWPTE has developed and released several publications on the “environment and RTAs” to deepen knowledge in this emerging area.

3. There is considerable interest now on how RTAs could pursue environmental and sustainable development throughout the agreements — e.g., in chapters such as investment, market access, government procurement — and not only via language contained in environmental chapters or side agreements. To date, however, there has been limited research into possibilities in this area.

4. This new and emerging issue of “greening RTAs” beyond environmental and sustainable development chapters is the core focus of this workshop. This event will provide new opportunities to draw experiences and insights together from the global community to establish the current state of knowledge on greening RTAs and to provide prospects for future negotiations.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the workshop are:

- To highlight the opportunities and challenges in greening RTAs.
- To take stock of current experience and insights in greening RTAs from different regions and stakeholders.
- To identify key knowledge gaps and the possible way forward in greening RTAs.

6. The focus of the workshop will be on chapters of RTAs that are concerned mainly with issues other than the environment, such as market access, investment, or government procurement, TBT, regulatory coherence or dispute settlement. It can also highlight crosscutting issues such as subsidies, implementation, capacity building and follow-up commitments.

Organiser

7. This workshop is organised by the OECD under the auspices of the Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE), with financial support from the European Union.

Participants

8. The workshop will be a multi-stakeholder event that brings together experts in the field of trade and environment from OECD and invited partner governments, international organisations, and academia.

Friday 10th June 2016

8:30	REGISTRATION
9:00	<p>OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION – SETTING THE SCENE</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening remarks (on behalf of JWPTE) (10 min) Vangelis Vitalis, JWPTE co-chair, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Introduction – Emerging interest in greening RTAs (5 min) Shardul Agrawala, Head of Environment and Economy Integration Division, OECD
9:15	<p>Session 1: GREENING RTAS - REALISING THE POTENTIAL BEYOND ENVIRONMENT CHAPTERS</p> <p>Moderator: Kuno Zurkinden, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs – SECO, Switzerland</p> <p>Objective This session will aim to identify the potential opportunities and approaches in greening RTAs beyond environmental and sustainable development chapters and to shed light on various efforts led by governments, intergovernmental organisations and research institutes.</p> <p>Keynote speakers (12 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do we really mean by “greening RTAs”? What are the opportunities beyond environment chapters? Aaron Cosbey, Senior Associate, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) What could be approaches for “greening” other chapters in RTAs (such as investment, government procurement, market access, TBT, cooperation and capacity building or dispute settlement etc.)? Peter Govindasamy, Director, International Trade Cluster, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Singapore <p>Discussion</p> <p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the opportunities in greening RTAs beyond environment chapters? What are the limitations of having a dedicated environment chapter? In an ideal world, what would a “green” RTA look like?
10:45	COFFEE
11:00	<p>Session 2: CURRENT STATE OF PLAY - INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON GREENING RTAS</p> <p>Moderator: Kaja Brundtland Edren, Senior Adviser, Section for WTO and OECD, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway</p> <p>Objective This session aims to highlight the current practice of greening RTAs beyond environmental and sustainable development chapters in countries and economies from different regions by focussing on 2 different RTAs from Asia-Pacific and the Americas.</p> <p>Keynote speakers (12 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greening RTAs in the Americas Claudia de Windt, Senior Legal Specialist, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States (OAS)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of greening articles from the TPP and Asia-Pacific Muralitharan Paramasua, Undersecretary, Strategic Planning and International Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) Malaysia <p>Discussion</p> <p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the current state of play of greening RTAs in different regions? Are there any commonalities or differences between different regions? Are there any best practices that can be identified?
13:00	LUNCH
14:30	<p>Session 3: GREENING RTAS - ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS</p> <p>Objective This session aims to identify the key knowledge gaps as well as the way forward and the next steps in greening RTAs beyond environmental and sustainable development chapters.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Way forward in greening RTAs (10 min) Joseph A. Ferrante, JWPTE co-chair, Senior Advisor, US Environmental Protection Agency <p>Stakeholder Roundtable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insights from Peru (5min) Ernesto Guevara, Director, Technical Requirements for Foreign Trade, Vice Ministry of Foreign Trade, Peru Provisional Toolkit on Greening RTAs – Update from UNEP (5min) Ying Zhang, Associate Programme Officer, Trade, Policy and Planning Unit, UN Environment Programme Possible next steps in the OECD work programme (5min) Shunta Yamaguchi, Policy Analyst, OECD <p>Discussion</p> <p>Key Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key knowledge gaps in making RTAs greener? Where are the potential areas and the possible approaches in greening RTAs? What are the next steps to support the transition towards greening RTAs and to better facilitate their successful implementation?
16:00	COFFEE
16:30-18:00	CLOSED SESSION
End of Workshop	

